AMENDMENT

In the Specification

    Please amend the specification as follows:

    Please replace the last paragraph on page 3 with the following paragraph:

    Both of these methods may be prone to error. Replacement of a BIOS chip by a novice user may lead to several problems, including improper insertion of the new chip, damage of the new chip, damage of the socket, static electricity damage to the new chip and/or existing chips on the motherboard. Popular methods for updating the BIOS code stored on a flash component also have risks. For instance, a user may try to update the BIOS code with an inappropriate set of new code, or a crash could occur in the middle of the update process. Typically, the BIOS code will be stored as a monolithic chunk of code that gets replaced in its entirety by a new monolithic chunk of code. When the BIOS code is stored on a flash component, the memory blocks corresponding to the portions of memory that are to contain the new BIOS code must first be cleared (*i.e.*, reset to all 1's) prior to rewriting the memory. This clearing process wipes out the existing BIOS code. As a result, if a failure occurs in the middle of a rewrite or update, the BIOS code will be corrupt. Suppose a power system failure occurs that causes the user to have to reboot the computer system. Since the BIOS code is typically needed to complete the boot process, the user may not be able to boot the computer system to fix the problem, or an emergency repair disk (that the user often doesn't have) may be need to enable the problem to be fixed.